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Mystery Pentagon office linked to Secord is called a CIA operation

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✓ WASHINGTON — A mystery office in the Pentagon linked to **Richard V. Secord**, a figure in the Iran arms and contra-supply network, is a CIA operation and not an activity of the Defense Department, according to a source knowledgeable about the issue.

The CIA activity has been housed at the Pentagon for years and pre-dates the current controversy over the sales to Iran and the possible illegal supply of arms to the contra rebels in Nicaragua, said this source, who declined to name it or describe its operations.

A Pentagon spokesman declined to comment on the issue, and there was no immediate response from the CIA when asked about the operation.

The link between the office and Mr. Secord, a retired Air Force major general, was made yesterday in *The Washington Times*.

The newspaper said it had obtained a Treasury Department document that ties together a firm called Amalgamated Commercial Enterprises with Energy Resources International, a company it said was owned by Mr. Secord.

The document is a report of foreign bank and financial accounts that federal law requires from those having an interest in or signature authority over a foreign bank account.

The newspaper said the signature on the form was obliterated, but the form contained a phone number that turned out to be that of the mystery "security" office in the Pentagon.

Mr. Secord is the target of a court action by the Senate panel investigating the Iran arms-sale controversy in an attempt to force him to allow investigators to inspect foreign

bank records over which he may have control. Mr. Secord's attorneys have countered that this would violate his constitutional right against self-incrimination.

One of the companies on the Treasury form, Amalgamated Commercial Enterprises, is among those companies the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence listed in its court filing against Mr. Secord. The panel wants him to waive his rights under foreign bank secrecy laws and permit examination of these records.

An apparent reference to the company also is on a hand-sketched diagram found among the White House papers of Lt. Col. Oliver North, the dismissed National Security Council aide who is perhaps the central figure in the arms sale and the alleged diversion of funds to the contras.

The diagram details a web of bank accounts and companies, some of which have been linked to the proceeds of the sales to Iran. On the diagram are boxes with the notation A.C.E. The diagram was published by the presidential board that investigated the affair. No explanation was offered by the board.

Also yesterday, Chief Judge Aubrey E. Robinson Jr. of the U.S. District Court in Washington set an April 14 hearing date on the Senate panel's attempt to have Mr. Secord cited for contempt for his refusal to make the records available.

Nancy J. Schwerzler of The Sun's Washington Bureau and researcher **Robert Fahs** contributed to this article.